

SPL ER/DL Team

November 11, 2011

Minutes

Information Sharing Session with Dun & Bradstreet

Chair: SPL ER/DL WG

D&B Guests:

Ryan Paul
Stephanie Roma-Brown

1. Update on D&B

- Ryan Paul from Dun and Bradstreet gave us a status update on D&B's efforts to help us resolve the issues we have been having with DUNS numbers.
 - Ryan Paul is a project manager in the D&B Arlington Virginia office that works closely with FDA.
 - They are aware of the validation work with FDA and appreciate getting involved in some of the challenges that pharma is having.
 - Heard about challenges obtaining and updating information with D&B. Frustration with work with D&B.
 - How to know what data FDA is using
 - Challenges with changing data
 - Issues with data changing.
- Ryan described (at a high level) the proposed D&B portal that could be used by industry to access the necessary D&B information, as well as touch on their plan to work closely with the pilot group to develop the solution.
 - D&B is working with a smaller group of this committee as a pilot – to use them as a way of getting feedback from industry
 - Working on a proposed solution – database/portal that will ease some of the pain points.
 - Look up your firm and collaborating firms to get their D&B information.
 - No fee for using this portal
 - Portal features
 - User would have to sign in – to get information on firm making request
 - Search on either firm name/address or duns number
 - Get information on the firm—info would be emailed to you.
 - Can do this either as a web service or directly searching one off via the portal.
 - Web service – can link the local service
 - Future enhancements – how to reconcile what is in the D&B database and reality. Synchronization step or correction. Fee based.
 - They will probably be fee based if you want to use the portal - to cover costs of D&B resources. Otherwise can use free D&B service.
 - Possibly a validation tool to check the consistency with the DUNS data.
 - Current work:
 - Working through technical aspects of building the tool.
 - Trying to work out logistics of where to put the portal
 - No exact timeline, but they have a sense of urgency.

- Should have a prototype in about a month.
- Other big concerns from the pilot group
 - How to assure that changes are made to D&B data that the company doesn't know about. ie can D&B flag this data
 - D&B has heard the concern and is looking for ways to address this.
 - Possibly protecting data that is registered through eList
 - Who would have authority to make these changes. ie authorize certain people for example the designated contact in the DER.
- Questions:
 - Is the search tool going to be similar to the existing lookup function in the D&Bi application?
 - Similar look/feel but may not be as pretty. The key would be that the data would be the same as what FDA sees as source data.
 - How/why would the data not match? There may be different search logic for branch locations. The search engine may give parent company rather than the branch location – because most D&B customers want credit information.
 - Timeframe?
 - Test application for the pilot group hopefully will be available in about a month +. But this could be delayed.
 - Translation of local language to English or abbreviations. This causes part of the problem.
 - Data source would be the World-base file (not the global database), which is in English. Someone does the translation to the world-base file.
- What is the next step for the pilot group?
 - Will reconvene about the end of November to regroup. Either give an update or show screen shots or demo the portal.

2. Walk-in items:

- Ruth: Announcement from Lonnie – related to need to include product NDCs for each establishment
- What happens if you want to delist a product for which the application has been withdrawn. Difficulties delisting because the data does not match up.
 - Work around is to ask Lonnie to over-ride the SPL.
 - FDA is looking into how to handle this routinely.

3. Upcoming meeting – Q&A session with Paul Loebach. December 7, 2011

- Please watch for my email and send back your questions.
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